PFLAG-ATLANTA

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Presents

The 2004 Scholarship Awards

June 6, 2004

Kecia Cunningham, Mistress of Ceremonies

THE PFLAG-ATLANTA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The PFLAG-Atlanta Scholarship Program is designed to recognize outstanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-gender (LGBT) individuals; encourage continuing education for self-identified LGBT individuals; and foster a positive image of LGBT people in society.

The program began in 1995, when the chapter presented three scholarships to students from the metro Atlanta area. Since that time, PFLAG-Atlanta has awarded over $100,000 to LGBT students from all over Georgia.

Applicants are evaluated using the following criteria, listed below in order of importance:

1. A demonstrated history of LGBT or other community service or activism, and/or extracurricular activities;
2. Academic achievement;
3. Financial need;
4. Identification of and potential to achieve career goals.

THE BRANDON W. LOUDIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Craig Washington

Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia
Pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work

Freelance writer for local and national LGBT print media • African American Gay Outreach Coordinator, AID Atlanta • Developer of Deeper Love, a behavior modification program for AID Atlanta • Co-director of Southerners On New Ground (SONG), an organization that challenges interlocking oppressions and helps to build multi-issue movements • Executive Director, Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center • Public speaker on gay-related events and issues • Volunteer for the MLK March Planning Committee • Currently working for AID Atlanta.

"Perhaps the racial pride that my parents instilled in me afforded me a critical eye, the wherewithal to interrogate the proscriptions of any homophobic person who questioned my legitimacy as a man. I often wonder if my parents had any inkling that they were raising not only a

black homosexual (of this I'm sure there was ample evidence) but also a homosexual activist, that is, one who replies 'who are you to ask why am I...' I am very blessed to have the courage and the space afforded by those who respect me to be able to walk with my head held high bringing all of who I am in any room I occupy."

THE PHIL STANLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Angela J. Taylor

University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia
Pursuing Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Founded Sisters of Sappho, the first lesbian social and support group at the University of Arizona • Volunteer with Pride Alliance, a LGBT resource center at UA • Volunteer for Tucson's Gay Mentor project, an HIV-prevention mentorship program • Board member for Nihon-Dykes, Tokyo, Japan • Member of Lesbian Avengers and ZAMI's DrumSista • Currently working with APLBTN (Asian Pacific Islander Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Network) and Atlanta's International Rescue Center.

"I am often asked to choose my identity in a single word. As a child, I was female and Korean, struggling to fit in at schools with few other Asians. As I came out, I claimed yet a third label. Being a lesbian, female, and Asian-American, I am a minority within a minority within a minority. My strength has arisen from these divisions. I have never felt afraid to stand up and disagree, whether the issue is feminism, racism or gay rights... As a gay woman, I have inevitably faced discrimination, but I feel I have only become stronger because of my experiences."

THE JONATHAN BENOV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Michael T. Crachiolo, II

New York University College of Arts and Sciences
New York City, New York
Accelerated Masters Program, Metropolitan Studies & Spanish

Certified youth facilitator and intern for Youth Pride • Co-founder of Henry W. Grady High School's Gay-Straight Alliance • Received the Diversity Award from GHS • Volunteer with Enlight Atlanta • Volunteer Coordinator of

AIDS Walk New York • Volunteer for COGAM, the primary LGBTQ center in Madrid, Spain • Volunteer for Fundación Triángulo, an LGBT immigrant rights organization, Madrid, Spain • Highly successful debater • Editor for "QueeRead," newsletter of NYU's Office of LGBT Student Services.

"I feel that the LGBTQ community is a big part of why I am who I am, why I am so concerned with helping others. For this, I feel that I owe the LGBTQ community the same--- I have to contribute back, so that other up and coming youth can have the same opportunities that the LGBTQ has given me. In any case, I will be working in the LGBTQ community after completing my education, much like I have already been working, but with much more time to do what I need to do."

THE DON GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP

Anneliese A. Singh

Georgia State University
Atlanta, Georgia
Doctoral Program, Counseling Psychology

In high school, organized Visual AIDS to educate peers about HIV/AIDS and its prevention • Volunteer Services Director, Project Open Hand • Meal Delivery Coordinator, AID Gwinnett • Founder, local chapter of AGLBIC (Association for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues in Counseling) • At AGLBIC, organized "Rainbow Ribbon Awareness week for "Coming Out" day and extended LGBT mental health workshops to the community • On national board of AGLBIC as Multicultural Consultant • Currently working on research to examine what resilience approaches counseling and psychological service professionals may utilize to best serve the mental health needs of the LGBT Community.

"No matter what setting I am in, I think it is important for me to be as out as I can be. I know that I will continue to struggle with safety issues and the seduction of the comfort zone of the closet in some situations; however, being out is a political act. It is an act that reminds me that I am valuable *simply for who I am.* My worth is non-negotiable in terms of my sexual identity, and being out solidifies that worth for me."

KECIA CUNNINGHAM
Mistress of Ceremonies

Decatur City Commissioner, Kecia Cunningham is the first openly gay, African-American to be elected in the Southeast. Working with city staff she expanded Decatur's EEO statement to include sexual orientation and transgender status, and added domestic partner benefits to the City's personnel policies.

In addition to her City Commission duties, Ms. Cunningham is a member of the Board of Directors of the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center and CHRIS Homes. She is president elect of Georgia Municipal Association's 3rd District and serves on its Legislative Policy Committee. She is a member of the Atlanta Executive Network, ZAMI, Human Rights Campaign, Stonewall Democrats, and the Atlanta Women's Foundation, and is also active with several neighborhood associations. She is a member of Leadership Atlanta's Class of 2004 and works on Wachovia Bank's Diversity Counsel.

Ms. Cunningham received the 2002 Human Right Campaign Fund's Community Leadership Award, and has been recognized as a member of 2002 – 2003 Who's Who in Black Atlanta. She was also named to the 2000 and 2001 Women Looking Ahead's List of 100 Most Influential Women. She is the 1999 Outstanding Young Alumna for Agnes Scott College. She has been a speaker for the Victory Foundation, Atlanta Pride, In the Life Atlanta's Black Gay Pride Celebration, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Black Lesbian convention.

CONTRIBUTORS

Atlanta PFLAG wishes to thank all those who contributed to the chapter this past year. Your continuing support enables us to offer not only this scholarship program, but also a help line, newsletter, web page, lending print and video library, educational materials, speaker's bureau, an annual presence at Pride, and, last but not least, our ongoing monthly support groups.

With your help we are working to keep families together.

We thank you.

SPECIAL THANKS

PFLAG-Atlanta wishes to extend special thanks to the following volunteers for their time, resources and talents:

The 2004 Scholarship Selection Panel: Annie Archbold, Randy Beggs, Katherine Davis, Randy Fair, Barbara E. Katz, & Derrick Reese
Kecia Cunningham
Robert Glor and Our Song
Reverend Paul Graetz and First MCC of Atlanta
Judy Colbs, former PFLAG-Atlanta president, for all your years of service and your sense of humor

THE PFLAG-ATLANTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bruce & Sue Nelson, Co-Presidents
Linda Keats, Treasurer
Lib Rumfelt, Secretary

Margaret Cowan, Scholarship Program Coordinator

PFLAG'S MISSION

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning people, their families, and friends through:

- Support to cope with an adverse society;
- Education to enlighten an ill-informed public; and
- Advocacy, to end legalized discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunities for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Atlanta PFLAG holds meetings on the third Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome. For more information please contact us.

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PFLAG ATLANTA

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Presents

THE 2007 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Michael Shutt, Master of Ceremonies

June 10, 2007

PROGRAM

Welcome.....*Lib Rumfelt & Karen Turner*

Opening.....*Lance Helms, Host*
Michael Shutt, Master of Ceremonies

Performance.....*Michael Mullink*

Guest Speaker.....*Brian Madej*

Presentation of Scholarship Awards.....*Michael Shutt*

Closing.....*Michael Shutt*

THE PHIL STANLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jodie-Helen Martin

Argosy University
Pursuing Psy.D., Clinical Psychology

Mentor & Counselor, Advocates for Bartow's Children • Staff singer, Northside Drive Baptist Church • Teacher, First Presbyterian Church-Cartersville • Teacher, St. Mary's Catholic School • Guest lecturer on trans-awareness, Kennesaw State University • Mentor, Jacob's Ladder.

"My activism is education. The greatest thing we can do, in my opinion, is humanize the LGBT community by talking about it. I have made it my personal goal to normalize the LGBT community to people who are not immersed in the culture and who may feel that queer people are 'those' people..."

THE JONATHAN BENOV MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Faisal Alam

Georgia Perimeter College
Pursuing A.A., Political Science & International Affairs

Founder & Former Director of Al-Fatiha Foundation, an international organization dedicated to supporting & empowering LGBTIQ Muslims • Regional Conference Planner, National Minority AIDS Counsel • Program Associate, Association of Minority Health

Professions Schools • 2001 Innovator, Advocate magazine • 2002 Young Visionary, The Utne Reader.

"My journey as an activist has led me to understand the interconnectedness of all social justice movements. We have to fight racism and economic injustice at the same time that we are fighting for our rights a LGBT people."

THE BROOKE GLAEFKE SCHOLARSHIP

John-Paul Griffin

Georgia State University
Pursuing B.S., Nutrition

Director of Programs, YouthPride • Youth Outreach, AID Atlanta • Founder, A Safer Place Youth Network (North Carolina) • Board Member, Triangle Community Works (NC) • Board Liaison, Human Rights Campaign, Washington, D.C. • Competitive bull rider.

"I came out at 16... and was quickly shunned by my peers and family. My guidance counselor in high school told me that 'gays don't have good lives" and he fostered me away from academia... Though I have been called a fag and sissy and queer, I have remained strong... I am the first person in my family to attend university."

THE DON GEORGE SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher Marvin Jordan Leonard

Kennesaw State University
Pursuing B.A., Secondary Education in English

Volunteer, Alzheimer's Foundation, Dalton • Volunteer, March of Dimes • Volunteer, World Vision • Volunteer, Locks for Love • Volunteer, Buddies Program • Volunteer, Nothing But Net • Editor-in-Chief, Northwest Whitfield High School yearbook • School Concert Choir.

"My English teachers are the reason I continued on through school and possibly even life. I hope and aspire to become an English teacher... I was inspired to be better, learn and grow in mind and spirit by my teachers, and if I have the ability to make another individual feel the same, it will all be worth it."

THE MARV AND JUDY COLBS SCHOLARSHIP

Craig Washington

Georgia State University
Pursuing Masters, Social Work

Contributing Writer, "Not in My Family: AIDS in the African American Community" • Lead Organizer, the Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast • Volunteer & Training Coordinator, Positive Impact • Former Executive Director, Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center • Former Co-Director, Southerners On New Ground (SONG) • Former African American Outreach Coordinator, AID Atlanta • ZAMI Scholar • Recipient, Mattie J.T. Stepanek Caregiver Award • Intern, Men Stopping Violence.

"Through my work as a writer, educator and public speaker, I have been told that I have inspired others. However, I had no idea that my new role as 'mature student' was motivating for so many others. I am humbled by the fact that as an activist who is 'out' regarding my sexual orientation and HIV status, others look upon me as somewhat of a role model. I am honored to serve as an inspiration for anyone living with chronic illness and/or the marginalization of being a minority in this society."

HOST

Lance Helms

Lance Helms of Atlanta is the PFLAG State Coordinator for Georgia. He has been a PFLAG volunteer since 1994, when he joined the PFLAG-Seacoast chapter in New Hampshire. There he served as Program Chair, Publicity Coordinator and Secretary. In 1999, Lance helped plan the Northeast Regional Conference, which was the largest regional PFLAG conference to date.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Michael Shutt

Michael Shutt is the Assistant Dean of Student for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center at the University of Georgia. He coordinates all services, programs and volunteers in the Center. Originally from Indiana, he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration from Michigan State University and his Doctorate from the University of Georgia. Michael is involved

in many LGBT activities on campus and in the community including GLOBES (Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Employees and Supporters), UGA Safe Space, OUTreach Athens and Just Equal.

GUEST SPEAKER

Brian Madej

Brian Madej is a fourth grade teacher in the Athens-Clarke County School System in Athens, Georgia. He received is Bachelors of Science in Education from Central Michigan University and his Masters of Middle Level Education from the University of Georgia. Brian created the Support Alliance for Gay Educators in 2005 and is working on the Safe School initiative with the Athens based organization Just Equal. He was awarded the 2007-08 Teacher of the Year from Whit Davis Elementary School and received the LGBTQ Educator of the Year from the Kennesaw State University Pride Alliance in 2007.

THE PFLAG ATLANTA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The PFLAG Atlanta Scholarship Awards are designed to recognize outstanding lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-gender (LGBT) individuals; encourage continuing education for self-identified LGBT individuals; and foster a positive image of LGBT people in society.

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements, among others:

- Identify openly as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or trans-gender;
- Demonstrate a history of LGBT or other community service or activism;
- Be a current Georgia resident or use the scholarship to attend school in Georgia;
- Hold the equivalent of a B- or higher cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) for the most recent 4 semesters.

Applications are evaluated using the following criteria, listed below in order of importance:

1. A demonstrated history of LGBT or other community service or activism, and/or extracurricular activities;
2. Academic achievement;
3. Financial need;
4. Identification of and potential to achieve career goals.

This program is funded entirely by donations. PFLAG Atlanta is currently accepting contributions for the 2008-2009 scholarships. Monetary gifts are tax deductible. Contact us at Pflagatlschols@aim.com for more information.

SPECIAL THANKS

PFLAG Atlanta wishes to extend special thanks to the following volunteers for their time, resources and talents:

The 2007 Scholarship Selection Panel:
- Randy Beggs
- Tim Jansa
- Barbara E. Katz
- Linda Marson
- Billiee Pendleton-Parker
- Derrick Reese

First MCC of Atlanta & Reverend Paul Graetz
Lance Helms
Michael Shutt
Brian Madej
Michael Mullink
Diana Burdette

THE PFLAG ATLANTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lib Rumfelt & Karen Turner, Co-Presidents

Diana Burdette, Henry Lewis, Jeff & Julie MacKenzie, Rick & Linda Marson, Dale & Mary Lynn Merkle, Billiee Pendleton-Parker, Grace Ann Young

Margaret Cowan, Scholarship Program Coordinator

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With your help we are working to keep families together.

We thank you.

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